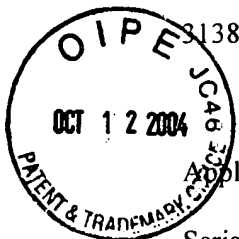


IFW



3138.69864

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kosugi et al. )  
Serial No. 10/787,064 )  
Conf. No. 9546 )  
Filed: February 25, 2004 )  
For: STORAGE APPARATUS AND )  
STORAGE MEDIUM )  
Art Unit: 2651 )  
Examiner: Unassigned )

*I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST-CLASS mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.*

10/7/04  
Date

Joseph P. Fox  
Registration No. 41,760  
Attorney for Applicant

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) within either of the following time periods, whichever occurs last:

- (a) within three months of either the filing date of the national application or the date of entry into the national stage; or
- (b) before the mailing date of first office action on the merits (i.e., not including actions such as restriction requirements).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of a European Search Report, patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

300 South Wacker Drive – Suite 2500  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
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By: Joseph P. Fox  
Joseph P. Fox  
Registration No. 41,760



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Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce  
(Rev. 8-88) Patent and Trademark Office

Attorney Docket No.: 3138.69864

Serial No.: 10/787,064

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant: Kosugi et al.

Filing Date: February 25, 2004

Group: 2651

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	5,909,336	Jun. 1, 1999	Schaffner et al.	360	77.08	Feb. 18, 1997
	6,288,861 B1	Sep. 11, 2001	Blaum et al.	360	49	Sep. 15, 1998
	5,852,523	Dec. 22, 1998	Jung	360	49	Jun. 6, 1996

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No

### OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	ANONYMOUS: "A Distributed Index Method with Fault Tolerance" RESEARCH DISCLOSURE, no. 443, 1 March 2001 (2001-03-01), page 475, XP002293380, Havant, UK, article No. 443141

Examiner

Date Considered

\*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.